



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Walla Walla Veterans Home**

**92 Wainwright Drive • Walla Walla, Washington 99362 • 509-394-6800**

October 8, 2020

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Family or Representative,

Today, one of our Walla Walla Veterans Home team members was tested using a new Point of Care Rapid Test with a machine produced by BD Veritor. The employee was asymptomatic, but received a positive result using this machine. When this type of test is used on an individual who does not have symptoms, there may be a 60% false positive rate with the testing. Because of the high rate of false positives, the employee will be re-swabbed and a PCR test will be sent to a local lab to confirm whether they are in-fact positive.

We will proceed with the regular precautions we take with any positive staff or resident, and all residents in the house where the employee last worked will be proactively tested. The employee will not return to work until the test result is confirmed.

We will continue to work closely with the Walla Walla County Department of Health and follow guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked and the Walla Walla Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected units for the next 14 days.

We are asking our staff to pay close attention to whether they have any symptoms, including the presence of a fever. As part of our ongoing screening process, all staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present and a temperature check. In addition, staff will take their temperature at least twice a day and are also asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The Walla Walla Veterans Home, is following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

In an effort to provide information as quickly and accurately as possible, we have developed a website to provide information to families and resident representatives, <https://www.dva.wa.gov/covid>.

Sincerely,

Deaon Vincent, Director of Nursing  
Walla Walla Veterans Home